

DR. GEORGE FREDERICK KUNZ, mineralogist, expert in gems, and vice-president of Tiffany and Company, New York, died on June 29, in his seventy-sixth year.

MISS ADELAIDE AMES, research assistant at the Harvard College Observatory, was drowned in Squam Lake, Laconia, New Hampshire, on June 27.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Mr. Maximo Ramos, of the Bureau of Science, Manila, died of malaria at Buayan, Cotabato Province, Mindanao, at the age of fifty years, on May 11, while engaged in field work. Mr. Ramos served as botanical collector for the Bu-

reau of Science for over thirty years, and the extensive duplicate series of his enormous collections have been distributed to botanical institutions all over the world. Few individuals in any country have prepared such extensive series of herbarium species as has Mr. Ramos."

JOHN WALTER GREGORY, professor of geology at the University of Glasgow and head of a British scientific mission studying Andean geological formations, was drowned on June 2 when his canoe capsized in the Urubamba River. Dr. Gregory was sixty-eight years old.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

DR. W. C. MENDENHALL, director of the U. S. Geological Survey, has given a statement to a representative of the *U. S. Daily* in which he says that in spite of the uncertain means of financing the International Geological Congress, the committee on organization is formulating plans to hold a meeting next year, although it may be a small one. Since 1878, eminent geologists of the world have been assembling periodically in first one country and then another to discuss the mineral resources of the world. It has been the practice for foreign governments to recognize the congress through parliamentary action, and give official sanction and welcome to the delegates from all parts of the world.

Great Britain has been host three times, France twice, while Canada, Mexico, Sweden, Russia, Spain, Belgium and South Africa are among those which have been hosts at one or another time. It was felt by the Americans at the last session of the congress that it was time for this country to be host; hence a proposal to hold the congress here was made.

Because of the economic situation the congress was deferred one year, and the tentative date is now set for the summer of 1933. A bill before congress calling for \$85,000 to cover the costs has been killed; hence official aid can hardly be expected now.

The meeting of world geologists from time to time is concerned with industry and international understanding on world mineral resources. Such resources as coal, gold and similar commodities of international importance have been discussed, and the potential wealth of the world in respect to their future use has been set forth in papers which are the final word on the subject.

At the last congress, gold was the topic under study. The League of Nations called for the published proceedings for purposes of considering the potential

gold supply in respect to studies on currency by one of its committees.

By concentrating on special topics, world facts are assembled and made available. Resources can be appraised and industry can be informed, so that plans for the future in respect to competition and distribution may be worked out intelligently.

The American committee on organization has as its honorary president, Mr. Hoover. In addition to supplying the general secretary, Dr. W. C. Mendenhall, the Geological Survey is also represented by H. G. Ferguson and M. I. Goldman, who serve as assistant secretaries. Honorary vice-presidents of the committee include: The Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Interior, the director of the Geological Survey, the president of the Geological Society of America, the president of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the president of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, and the president of the Academy of Sciences.

THE TWELFTH BIENNIAL CONCLAVE OF ALPHA CHI SIGMA

THE twelfth biennial conclave of Alpha Chi Sigma, professional chemical fraternity, was held from June 13 to 17 on the campus of the University of Maryland. Convention headquarters were at the Phi Delta Theta House, meetings were held in the auditorium of the chemistry building, the delegates housed in the university dormitories, and meals were served at the Lord Calvert Inn. The largest attendance in the history of the fraternity was recorded.

The conclave was featured by alternating half-day business sessions with half-day pleasure intervals such as trips to Mt. Vernon, Arlington, in and about Washington, Annapolis and the Bureau of Standards. One half day was devoted to sports and a model initiation was conducted by Alpha Rho, University of Maryland, one of the host chapters. A reception, a dance and a banquet were also included.

Election of national officers resulted as follows: Marion E. Dice, Los Angeles, national president; H. E. Wiedemann, St. Louis, senior vice-president; V. W. Meloche, University of Wisconsin, junior vice-president; W. S. Ritchie, University of Missouri, national ritualist; John R. Kuebler, Indianapolis, national secretary. Charles A. Mann, University of Minnesota, retiring national president, was presented a diamond bordered badge.

Conclave hosts were the Alpha Rho chapter, University of Maryland, Alpha Pi chapter, George Washington University, and the professional chapter in Washington.

W. L. Lamar was chairman and Norman Bekkedahl secretary of the local Washington committee. Chairmen of the various committees were as follows: Hospitality, H. H. Kaveler; Finance, H. A. Jones; Registration, T. C. Davis; Transportation, N. Bekkedahl; Dance, S. T. Schiektanz; Smoker, O. W. May; Sports, H. P. Newton; Initiation, R. L. Sawyer; Ladies Entertainment, C. A. White; Printing, Klare S. Markley; Publicity, R. M. Hann. National committee chairmen were as follows: State of the Order, John D. Ferry, Stanford; Finance, A. B. Weaver, Indiana University; Ways and Means, T. G. Rochow, Cornell University, and Credentials, E. S. Gruver, University of Maryland.

THE FIFTH GREENLAND EXPEDITION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

THE Michigan Pan-American Airways Expedition, the fifth Greenland Expedition of the University of Michigan, sailed from New York on June 15 on the schooner *Morrissey*, Captain R. A. Bartlett, bound for Cape York in Northwest Greenland to erect a memorial column to Admiral Peary, discoverer of the North Pole. The *Morrissey* was to call at Brigus, Newfoundland, June 26, to take on board masons and also Dr. Ralph L. Belknap, the leader of the Michigan Expedition.

Besides the leader, the Michigan Expedition includes Evans S. Schmeling, second in command and aerologist; Max Demorest, assistant aerologist, and Herbert Gardner. Demorest, who was assistant aerologist of the fourth Greenland Expedition, is to join in September, going by way of Copenhagen. The base of the expedition is to be the neck of the Upper Nugsuak peninsula in latitude 74° N. near where the Cornell Greenland Expedition under the late Professor R. S. Tarr made its base more than thirty years ago. Aerological work will be carried out throughout the period of the Second International Polar Year. Glaciological and geological work will also be included, and Dr. Belknap expects to make a dog-sled expedition to the middle of the ice-cap in the early

spring of 1933. He will also carry out certain studies for the Pan-American Airways. Dr. Belknap has been a member of three earlier Greenland expeditions, Mr. Schmeling of two, and Mr. Demorest of one; all expeditions from the University of Michigan.

AWARDS OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

THE annual meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, London, was held on the afternoon of June 20, when the medals and awards for 1932 were presented. The King had approved the award of the Founder's Medal to Mr. H. G. Watkins for his work in the Arctic regions as leader of the British Arctic air route expedition, and of the Patron's Medal to H.R.H. the Duke of Spoleto for his work in the Himalaya as leader of the Karakoram Expedition in 1929.

According to the report in the London *Times*, Admiral Sir William Goodenough, who presided and made the presentations, said that the award to the Duke of Spoleto—who was unable to be present—was a recognition on the part of the society of the admirable work done by his Royal Highness when he led the Italian expedition in 1929 and also of his preliminary visit to Askole the year before, when he took up a large amount of stores and made the necessary reconnaissance which ensured success. This expedition resulted, among other things, in joining up with the route of Sir Francis Younghusband's in the Shaksgam Valley and later tracing that valley above the Urdok Glacier. It was agreeable that the long association of the society with the Royal House of Savoy should be continued in a younger generation.

To Mr. Watkins, Admiral Goodenough said: "His Majesty has approved of the Founder's Medal being awarded to you for your work of investigation, exploration, and research in the Arctic, culminating in the British Arctic air route expedition of 1930-31. I believe that you are the youngest man who has ever received a Royal Medal of this society. You have placed yourself in the front rank of Arctic explorers. We wish you well in the minor expedition that you are going to lead in Greenland, and we hope that in the future you will be enabled to carry out that great project in the Antarctic which I know fills your mind." The other awards made included the Victoria medal to Professor A. P. Coleman, of Toronto, for his contributions to the geography and geology of Canada; the Murchison Grant to Dr. K. S. Sandford, secretary of the commission of the International Geographical Union on Pliocene and Pleistocene Terraces, for his personal work in that investigation during the past six years; the Back Grant to Mr. Hugh